The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" That is a matter left to the discretion of local bodies. Because if a man is elected president to a local board and if the same man is also elected chairman of a municipal council, the Government cannot interfere."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Am I to understand that the Government have never at any time appointed a man who was already chairman of a municipal council as president of the district board ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" That question does not arise."

Mr A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—" May I know whether the headquarters for the board and the municipality are in the same place in such cases or in different places ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" It may be in the same place. It is not unusual that the headquarters of a district board and the headquarters of a municipal council are in one and the same place."

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—" May I know a case where the same place happened to be the headquarters of both the bodies ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" My hon. Friend can easily get the information by a reference to the Annual Civil List."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" May I know whether complaints have been received from the citizens concerned in connexion with having one gentleman functioning in both capacities ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Sir, I have only to say that these complaints had better to be made to the electorates."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether the chairman of the Coimbatore Municipality was also nominated as district board president ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Yes. He was elected later on as chairman."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Was not the nomination made when he was chairman of the municipality ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" But he was also later on elected as chairman."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Was not the chairman of the Bellary Municipality similarly appointed president of the district board ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Yes."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" May I know whether it was the case with the president of the Coimbatore District Board ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The president was nominated to the district board, and he was later on elected as chairman of the municipality."

*The Coimbatore water-supply scheme.*

* 464 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received several memorials from the residents of Coimbatore objecting to the Coimbatore water-supply scheme as at present decided upon ;

(*b*) whether the municipal council has sent up any resolutions regarding the scheme and if so to what effect;

(*c*) whether the Government have come to any final decision in the matter and if so to what effect;

(*d*) whether the municipal council has decided to reduce the property tax and if so to what rate; whether the Government have come to any decision on this matter; and

(*e*) whether there has been any proposal to the effect that the water-supply scheme may be worked under the management of the municipal council itself and if so whether the Government have any objection to agree to the proposal; what will be the approximate saving made by the change in the working expenses of the scheme?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The municipal council has submitted resolutions to the following effect:—

(1) The municipal council went beyond its taxing capacity in agreeing to levy a water and drainage tax of $10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Any excess expenditure on the scheme over and above 41 lakhs should therefore be entirely borne by the Government.

(2) In case any water is taken for irrigation, the Council should be given the full benefit accruing therefrom.

(3) The work should be commenced early.

(4) A water and drainage tax of 8 per cent will be levied from 1st October 1925. The necessary notice inviting objections will be published.

Copies of further resolutions passed by the Council at its meeting held on the 30th July 1925 are also appended.[a]

(*c*) The Government have agreed to spend the whole Government grant before any municipal money is spent subject to the condition that any excess expenditure over the sanctioned estimate should be met entirely by the municipal council.

The question whether the scheme will benefit irrigation and whether any contribution can be made towards the cost of the scheme from irrigation funds on that account is under the consideration of the Government.

The chairman has promised to submit a report at an early date showing how the scheme can be financed with an 8 per cent tax. This report is awaited. The resolutions passed by the council on the 30th July 1925 are also under consideration.

(*d*) The Government are not aware that the Council has decided to reduce the rate of the property tax.

(*e*) The chairman has proposed that the centage charges on the scheme may be reduced or the council permitted to carry out the work through its own agency. This is under the consideration of the Government. It is not now possible to say what amount will be saved by the work being done by the council instead of by the Public Works Department, or whether there will be any saving.

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[a] Printed as Appendix VII on page 851 infra.

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" With reference to the answer in clause (b) (1), may I point out that the municipality has resolved that any excess expenditure over Rs. 41 lakhs should be borne by the Government, as will be seen from the resolutions sent up to the Government and printed as appendix. The Government say that the municipality should spend the money necessary for any excess expenditure over Rs. 41 lakhs. May I therefore know if the municipality is going to be punished for not paying for any excess expenditure for the work? We know that the pipes have been ordered for the work and they are coming into the Coimbatore town. The municipality has repeatedly resolved that it will not pay one single pie towards any excess expenditure over Rs. 41 lakhs."

The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—" The only solution is that the work should not exceed the estimated amount."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" Does the Government give that undertaking, that the amount will not be exceeded? In that case, we will be satisfied. "

The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—" The question can only be considered when the work reaches that stage."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" Unfortunately, Sir, in spite of that the Government go on saying that anything over Rs. 41 lakhs the municipality must pay. Are the Government going to keep the question pending? "

The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—" The Government are quite right in giving that warning. "

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" May I know the serious consequences that will follow if the municipality refused to pay for any excess expenditure ?"

The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—" It is no question of punishment. The work will be stopped."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" Am I to understand that the work will be left unfinished if the municipality cannot pay a small excess amount? "

The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—" That appears to be the only way open to the Government."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" Is it charitable for the Government not to proceed with the work because of that reason ? "

The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—" The estimate has been made and the Government expect that the work should be completed within that amount. "

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" There are indications of the estimate being exceeded. Is it worthwhile stopping the work even if it exceeds by a few hundred rupees or by a thousand rupees? Is that what the hon. the Minister wants to convey ? "

The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—" I suppose there are ways by which the expenditure may be brought down and the work completed within the estimated amount."